

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:CEJ

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S: L.MATTESON

PM:TSTERN (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 265544

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, US

SUBJECT: ARMS FOR SAUDI ARABIA

REF: JIDDA 7419

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

1. AT NEXT APPROPRIATE OCCASION, YOU SHOULD TELL PRINCE SULTAN THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY WORKING ON REPLY TO HIS LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 17. WE REGRET DELAY, WHICH IS DUE TO FACT THAT WORKING OUT SPECIFIC DELIVERY DATE INFORMATION ON BASIS OF GENERAL DECISIONS CONVEYED BY SECRETARY INVOLVES COMPLICATED LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCTION SCHEDULES AND SUPPLY COMMITMENTS BOTH AT HOME AND GLOBALLY ON BROAD RANGE OF EQUIPMENT ITEMS INVOLVED.

2. FYI: NOT ONLY IS THERE THE PROBLEM OF DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN WHAT OUR RECORDS SHOW THE SECRETARY SAID AND SAUDI PERCEPTIONS YOU HAVE DESCRIBED, BUT THERE IS ALSO THE
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PROBLEM RAISED BY SULTAN'S LETTER OF SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER

REDUCTION IN DELIVERY TIME FOR SEVERAL MAJOR ITEMS. THESE
NEW REQUESTS HAVE REQUIRED GOING BACK TO DRAWING BOARDS TO
SEE WHAT IF ANYTHING CAN BE DONE IN VIEW OF IMMENSELY
COMPLICATED PROBLEM OF PROGRAMMING DELIVERY OF THESE

ITEMS TO US FORCES AND FOREIGN CUSTOMERS.

3. CONTINUE FYI: WE ARE STILL -EIGHING HOW TO CONVEY
TO SULTAN OUR RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN HIS LETTER,
AND HAVE YOUR RECOMMENDATION IN THIS RESPECT UNDER
CONSIDERATION. END FYI. KISSINGER

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